

SWOSU Biology Group Helps with Inventory at BioBlitz

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The Southwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Biology recently participated in the 14th annual Oklahoma BioBlitz at Osage Hills State Park near Pawhuska.

BioBlitz is a rapid inventory of biological diversity in a particular area over a 24-hour period that has been coordinated by the University of Oklahoma Biological Survey annually since 2001. The effort includes participants from several Oklahoma colleges and universities as well as citizen scientists.

Over 700 species were collected at this year's event, and the SWOSU team was instrumental in collecting and tallying invertebrates. After the inventory, several students attended an All about Birds show at the Sutton Avian Research Center. The show gives participants an amazing experience with native and exotic birds that demonstrates the importance of bird conservation.

Next year's Oklahoma BioBlitz will be held in the fall at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station on the shores of Lake Texoma. Dr. Rickey Cothran said the reservoir provides ample opportunity to collect aquatic organisms with nearby streams and terrestrial habitats containing many interesting species.